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Inventory
for

Manuscript Collection
MS-464

Snow Marine Company Records

Inclusive dates 1894-1946
Bulk dates 1927-1942

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

March 2016

Six folders
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Snow Marine Company
Records, 1894-1946 (bulk 1927-1942)
Six folders
Marine salvage and construction business in Rockland (ME).
Correspondence (incoming and outgoing), invoices and receipts, agreements, bills of sale, and a certificate of registry relating to the operation of the Snow Marine Company, under the ownership and management of Captain John I. Snow (1872-1948).
Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.
MS-464; Accession # 2006.087.01
Finding aid in repository; folder and item level control.

Added entries—people
Snow, John I., *Captain*

Added entries—places
Rockland (ME)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)
Joseph H. Steel (Motor vessel)
Sophia (Screw steamer, lighter)

Added entries—key terms
Insurance
Lighters
Salvage

Acquisition

The papers of the Snow Marine Company were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, and by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he acquired this particular group of manuscripts. He was well-acquainted with Richard M. Snow and Bertram G. Snow of Rockland, who worked hard to document the history of the Snow family and its maritime activities. These papers were found in his study with other similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

Other than the usual surface dirt and minor tears, the manuscripts in this collection are in good condition. Overall, the records of the Snow Marine Company are in good condition.

Biographical/Historical Notes

John Ingalls Snow was born in 1872, the son of Captain Israel L. Snow and Louella (Keating) Snow of Rockland. The family was well-known locally for its seafaring and shipbuilding activities. He left school at 16 to go to sea, and became a master mariner while still in his 20s. He commanded coasting schooners including his namesake, the tern schooner *John I. Snow,* and the tern schooner *Methebesec*. In 1896 he took his new bride, Sarah (Gilchrest) Snow, aboard the *Methebesec* for their honeymoon. In 1900 he left the sea to engage in the coal business for a few years, but about 1907 he established the Snow Marine Company, of which he was president and general manager. He also was a partner and later director of the I.L. Snow Co. shipbuilding and repair yard in Rockland, acting as treasurer, vice president, and ultimately president. He is believed to have continued operations of the Snow Marine Company until his death in 1948.

Snow Marine Company was described by John I. Snow as "engaged in salvage wrecking, general marine construction, lighterage and towing." He appears to have established it about 1907, although he may have been involved in the wrecking business somewhat earlier. His many relatives may have been involved in this business to some degree, as he was in theirs.

An advertisement for Snow Marine Co. in the 1933-1934 *Maine Register* (opposite pg. 799) lists John I. Snow as president and general manager, and Fred C. Lindsey Jr. as secretary and treasurer. It goes on to say, "Wrecking, Dredging and Freighting; Pile Driving Contractors; Steam Lighter *Sophia* (capacity 200 tons); Tugs and Barges, Centrifugal Wrecking Pumps (8 and 12 inch), Builders of Granite Wharves, Sand and Gravel Furnished." The office was at the end of Snow Wharf, Telephone 687, and a residence was also given, 63 Masonic Street, Telephone 16. Including Snow's residence was a way of

providing 24-hour service, since maritime emergencies can't wait for office hours.

The steam lighter *Sophia* was a well-known fixture of Rockland Harbor and nearby areas.

Snow Marine Company is listed in the 1946-1947 *Maine Register* but not in the 1948-1949 volume, and it is thought that the company may have closed about the time of John I. Snow's death in March of 1948.

Additional information about Capt. John I. Snow and the Snow family of Rockland can be found in: *The Main Beam*, Bertram G. Snow, 2005; several self-published books by Bertram G. Snow and his cousin Richard M. Snow, such as *The Snow Shipyard Family of Rockland*, 1994.

Scope and Content Notes

The records include correspondence (incoming and outgoing), invoices and receipts, agreements with a customer and with a supplier, bills of sale for vessels, a certificate of vessel registry and a small group of Snow business letterheads. The bulk of the documents relate to the operation of the Snow Marine Company, under the ownership and management of Captain John I. Snow (1872-1948).

The majority of incoming correspondence is addressed to John I. Snow of the Snow Marine Co., but there is one letter addressed to Capt. Israel Snow, Snow Marine Company, which would likely be John's brother Israel L. Snow, referred to as Dade. Dade's connection with Snow Marine is not known.

The correspondence is about the salvage of sunken and stranded vessels, the potential moving of a house by barge, vessels for sale, the condition of vessels, moving stone, billing and payment problems, insurance issues and other matters. Nearly all the correspondence is typed.

The majority of the documents are letters. The other document groups – invoices, agreements, etc. – are small ones. Nearly all the invoices relate to the steam lighter *Sophia*. There is an agreement for moving stone for John Bishop and a pricing agreement for oil and grease from The Texas Company. There are two bills of sale for barges (Snow is buying one, selling the other) and a certificate of registry for a screw steamer.

Folder List

1 Correspondence, incoming, 1927 – 1942
2 Correspondence, outgoing, 1927 – 1938
3 Invoices and receipts, 1926 – 1946
    Arthur N. Lawrence 1926
    Steam lighter *Sophia* 1939, 1941
    Rockland Rockport Lime Company 1945, 1946
4 Agreements, 1935, 1937
    John Bishop, Bishop and Stoddard, 1935
    The Texas Company, 1937
5 Vessel documents
    Bill of sale, barge *Togus No. 2*, 1923
    Bill of sale, sloop barge *791*, 1924
    Certificate of registry, steam screw *Sundew*, 1941
6 Letterheads, 1894, 1930, undated
    I. L. Snow & Co., 1894
    I. L. Snow Co., 1930
    John G. Snow, Penobscot Bay Pilot, undated